

of over 1 million truck trips a year from our Nation's highways. At the same time, the proposal raised environmental concerns. In response, for the first time ever in a merger, the Board issued a full environmental impact statement. We also have encouraged the railroads and local communities to meet and attempt to address issues privately, and several have been able to successfully resolve their concerns. In Cleveland, for example, a key traffic center for this merger, the parties, after months of discussion, have reached mutually acceptable agreements that preserve the operational integrity of the transaction while addressing important community life concerns. I am pleased that we are able to give effect to win-win settlements such as this one, and others in the area surrounding Cleveland and in so many other places. At the same time, for the communities that could not reach agreement with the carriers, our decision does provide necessary and appropriate conditions pertaining to grade-crossing safety, hazardous materials, traffic delay and noise, among others. And, with the recommended mitigation that the applicants have agreed to carry out, the transaction will not have, and cannot be viewed as having, a disproportionately high and adverse impact on minority and low-income areas.

The Promotion of Safety. Our decision clearly promotes safety. More than half of the environmental conditions involve safety. For the first time ever in a merger, the applicants were required to submit safety integration plans. And, as part of the merger implementation oversight, the implementation of these plans will be carefully monitored through a memorandum of understanding between the Board and the Department of Transportation, which clearly represents a cooperative governmental initiative in the public interest.

Recognition of Employee Interests. As previously discussed, the proposal before us will mean more jobs overall in the long run. And, by adopting the UTU proposal in mandating the creation of Labor Task Forces to focus on issues such as safety and operations, our decision will help promote safety and quality of life for employees. Also, our decision provides the protections of New York Dock, and it reaffirms the negotiation and arbitration process as the proper way to resolve important issues relating to employee rights. Thus, the Board has made clear in its decision, as requested by rail labor, that the Board's approval of the application does not indicate approval or disapproval of any of the involved CBA overrides that the applicants have argued are necessary.

Overall Benefits. The package we are approving should clearly promote the public interest. The original transaction, with its subsequently negotiated agreements, and with the conditions we are imposing, will provide many benefits to many people. The extensive oversight and monitoring will help us to ensure that these benefits will materialize, and the private mechanisms in place for oversight will provide a vehicle by which the important and constructive private-sector dialogue, initiated prior to the Board's decision today among the applicants, other railroads, shippers, employees, and affected communities, can continue.

Our decision promotes private-sector initiatives that are in the public interest and represents good, common sense government. It provides a resolution that is best for the national interest at large, and for the East in particular. Approval of this merger as conditioned is an historic moment for the Board, for transportation, and for the Nation as a whole.

HONORING THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NICKEL SOLUTION

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I come before the Senate today to recognize the 15-year anniversary of a unique partnership between labor and management in the glass container manufacturing industry. This highly successful program in the glass container industry is called the "Industry Union Glass Container Promotion Program" or Nickel Solution. This effort is a fine example of workers and employers joining together during a time of change and transition in America's oldest industry. Since the 1700s, the men and women who make glass containers have demonstrated a steadfast commitment to produce the best in glass packaging. The Nickel Solution is one shining example of that dedication.

The State of Pennsylvania is home to six glass container manufacturing plants—more than any other state except California. These facilities mean good paying jobs for approximately 3,000 Pennsylvanians and are major employers in Brockway, Clarion, Conneville, Crenshaw, Glenshaw and Port Allegany, Pennsylvania.

The Nickel Solution was based originally on voluntary contributions of a nickel per hour of pay from glass container industry employees to support a national fund to promote glass packaging and safeguard jobs. In turn, employers matched the contributions, setting the stage for joint cooperation and promotion.

Through glass plant public relations committees, staffed by employee volunteers, the glass container industry's interests are well monitored and protected. Employees educate communities about glass recycling, conduct "buy in glass" promotions, and act as the front line for local, regional, and state advocacy. The Nickel Solution has enabled both labor and management to accomplish their goals of relative stability and secure employment for thousands of people in some 60 plants in 24 states throughout the country.

The Nickel Solution is simple and works, proving its value time and again. The Nickel Solution has enabled the glass container industry to march forward to a brighter future.

Mr. President, the U.S. Department of Labor has recognized this program as a "model for the 21st century." In addition, Labor Secretary Herman has recognized this anniversary in the form of a letter congratulating the men and women of the U.S. glass container industry. I ask unanimous consent that the Secretary's letter be printed in the RECORD and I salute the great success of the Nickel Solution and the workers and management of the glass container industry.

There being no objection, the letter was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SECRETARY OF LABOR,
Washington, May 4, 1998.

Mr. JAMES RANKIN,
International President, Glass, Molders, Pottery
and Allied Workers International Union,
Media, PA.

DEAR MR. RANKIN: On the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the Industry-Union Container Promotion Program, I want to compliment the men and women of the North American glass container industry for their continued dedication to the well being of America's oldest industry. I also want to compliment the unique labor-management partnership for its tradition of cooperation, environmental stewardship and job preservation.

The Industry Union Glass Container Promotion Program—or Nickel Solution—is a fine example of workers and employers joining together to strengthen an important U.S. industry during a time of transition and transformation. Working together, you have made sure that the glass container industry will continue to thrive well into the 21st century.

Congratulations and best wishes,
Sincerely,

ALEXIS M. HERMAN.

RECOGNITION OF THE AIR FORCE OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS (OSI)

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I have sought recognition to recognize the Air Force Office of Special Investigations on its 50th anniversary, August 1, 1998.

The Office of Special Investigation was created in 1948 at the suggestion of the 80th Congress. Then Secretary of the Air Force Stuart Symington consolidated and centralized the investigative services of the United States Air Force to create an organization that would conduct independent and objective criminal investigations. Since 1948, the Office of Special Investigations has evolved into an organization that not only conducts criminal and fraud investigations, but investigates and thwarts terrorism and espionage, pursues military fugitives, and maintains the security of the Air Force's computer systems. The Office of Special Investigations has truly adapted to fulfill the needs of the United States Air Force in the 21st Century.

At present, 2,000 men and women serve in the Office of Special Investigations. In more than 150 offices across the United States and in a dozen offices overseas, these men and women perform the investigative work of the United States Air Force wherever and whenever they are needed. I am proud to be among the 11,000 alumni of the Office of Special Investigations. I served as a lieutenant in the OSI from 1951 through 1953 and was assigned to the Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Delaware District. My experience allowed me to serve my country, hone my investigative skills, and better prepare me for a career in the law and in government.

It gives me great pleasure, Mr. President, to stand before you and salute the Office of Special Investigations on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. Its legacy of service, integrity, and excellence continues today. A better motto